

HABITS OF ACANTHOPLEURA GRANULATA.

BY S. H. HAMILTON.

The south coast of Cuba west of Santiago de Cuba is a sharp, dock-like escarpment bounded by very deep water. In the cavities of the coralline rock, from ebb water to that just wetted by each wave, are the homes of this chiton. The impact of the waters of the Caribbean against this coast, not being broken by any beach or shallow water, is often very powerful and destructive. I observed that with each successive wave the chitons brought their girdles flush and tight with the rocks, while during slack water they raised, so as to let the receding fluid circulate freely around their gills. At the time of my visit to Cuba I was unacquainted with the visual organs of the tegmentum, and supposed that *Acanthopleura granulata* had acquired a rythmic movement by experience and was so enabled to live in a more exposed situation than other mollusks. It now seems evident to me that the megalapores are so well developed in this species that it can perceive the oncoming wave before it strikes.

TEMPLE PRIME.

In the death of Temple Prime, which occurred on the 25th of February last, another of the old-time Conchologists has passed away. Mr. Prime was born in New York City seventy years ago, and after graduating at Harvard, studied law but never practised. He was greatly interested in science, particularly Conchology, and studied with Professors Agassiz and Silliman. In the early sixties he published numerous papers, mostly in the Proceedings of the Acad. Nat. Sciences, Philada., upon the *Cyclades*, in which he was especially interested and an authority. His exhaustive Monograph of the Corbiculidæ was published under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington.

Mr. Prime was also a student of Genealogy and History, and at the time of his death was at work on a French history. He was actively interested in political affairs, being what is called an Independent, and in 1860 was secretary of legation at The Hague, Holland. As president of the Citizens' League for good government in Huntington, he took a lively interest in local affairs and was a large con-

tributor towards its educational and other interests, notably the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Association, the indebtedness of which he greatly reduced and finally cancelled.

Personally Mr. Prime was a generous friend, ever ready to help any worthy cause with purse or counsel, and he will be greatly missed in the community in which he spent so many years of his life.

S. RAYMOND ROBERTS.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

SYNOPSIS OF THE FAMILY VENERIDÆ AND OF THE NORTH AMERICAN RECENT SPECIES. By Wm. H. Dall (Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus. xxvi, 335-412, plates xii-xvi, 1902).

This synopsis gives in condensed form the results of another of Dr. Dall's elaborate studies on the Pelicypods. The revision of the nomenclature involved a great amount of work, necessitating many generic and specific changes. A complete bibliography is given, followed by the synopsis of classification of the genera and sub genera, and a revision of the species with descriptions of twenty new species.

Dr. Dall divides the *Veneridæ* into four sub-families: *Dosiniinæ*, *Meretricinæ*, *Venerinæ*, *Gemminæ*; represented on the Atlantic coast by 59 species, and on the Pacific by 80 species, two being natives of both oceans.

From the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States the following species are recorded: *Dosinia concentrica* Born.; *D. elegans* Con.; *D. discus* Rve.; *Transennella cubaniana* Orb.; *T. stimpsoni* Dall; *T. conradiana* Dall; *Gouldia cerina* C. B. Ads. is now placed in the genus *Gafrarium* Bolten 1798, and *Macrocallista nimbosa* Solander 1786, is adopted in place of *Callista gigantea* Gmel. 1792; *M. maculata* L.; *Callocardia* (*Agriopoma*) *morrhuanæ* Linsley, replaces *Cytherea convexa* Say (not Brong.), and *C. sayana* Con., the two latter names were applied to the Miocene form which is considered distinct from the recent. *Callocardia texasiana*, Dall; *C. zonata* Dall; *Pitaria albida* Gmel.; *P. fulminata* Mke. (*Cytherea varians* Hanley); *P. simpsoni* Dall; *P. eucymata* Dall, and *P. (Hysteroconcha) dione* L. The latter is more familiarly known as *Dione dione* or *D. veneris* Desh. By elimination the genus *Cytherea* Bolton 1798 should be restricted to form like *C. listeri* Gray (*Venus*